

alleged as being obvious, rather than anticipated as per the previous rejection, were present in the original pending claims. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the March 17, 1999 Office Action was improperly made final, and the Applicants request that the final status of the Office Action be withdrawn. See MPEP § 706.07(a)

Turning to the merits of the Office Action, the Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 19-26 have been allowed.

Claims 1-18, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,954 to Inoue ("Inoue"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

A first exemplary embodiment of the present invention pertains to an image shooting apparatus comprising: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording function and a silver salt information recording function; a video picture shooting section; a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information on a video recording medium, the video information relating to the shooting of the video picture, wherein the video signal recording section stores still pictures and motion pictures on the video recording medium, the still pictures being distinguished from the motion pictures based on the video information which is stored in a data area of the video recording medium; a video signal reproduction section for reproducing the video signal and video information from the recording medium, wherein still pictures are identified by video information stored in the data area of the video recording medium; an electric display device for displaying the video picture and video information reproduced by the video signal reproduction section; a shooting information provider for outputting various items of information as to shooting; and an information input section for inputting the various items of information into the shooting information provider.

According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. The silver salt information thus inputted during recording

can be displayed on the electric display device. For example, when silver salt picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting, the thus shot image can be displayed as a still image during reproduction of the video, and the reproduction conditions can be varied. Note page 5, line 22 et seq. of the present specification.

Aspects of the above-noted first embodiment are encompassed by pending independent claim 1, as amended.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 17 of Inoue includes a video recording unit 125. Column 23, lines 63 et seq. of Inoue states that a moving image can be recorded on a video tape simultaneously with recording on a silver salt film. More specifically, when a moving image having the best composition to be recorded on the film is obtained in recording an object, the release button of the camera is fully pressed. At this time, an image memory 111 stores an object image. Figs. 8 and 9 shows other embodiments which pertain to the entry of post-processing information.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 1. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest at least the following features recited in claim 1:

- a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information on a video recording medium, the video information relating to the shooting of the video picture, wherein the video signal recording section stores still pictures and motion pictures on the video recording medium, the still pictures being distinguished from the motion pictures based on the video information which is stored in a data area of the video recording medium;

- a video signal reproduction section for reproducing the video signal and video information from the recording medium, wherein still pictures are identified by video information stored in the data area of the video recording medium;

- an electric display device for displaying the video picture and video information reproduced by the video signal reproduction section;

In Inoue, for instance, there is no indication that video memory 125 stores information pertaining to still and motion video pictures, wherein the still pictures are identified by video information stored in a data area of a recording medium. The Examiner makes Official Notice that "such information such as time/date is commonly recorded on a video recording medium along with the video signal and then reproduced along with the video signal when the tape (or other recording medium) is played back at a later time." This statement is traversed because there is no evidence that it is known to record still and motion pictures on a recording medium and to distinguish between them using a data area of the recording medium. The mere alleged *capability* of an apparatus to store information in a data area of a video recording medium does not suggest the desirability of providing such information in the specific image shooting apparatus application recited in claim 1. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

A second exemplary embodiment of the present invention pertains to an image shooting apparatus, comprising: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording function and a silver salt information recording function; a video picture shooting section; a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information; a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section; and an index data recording section provided separately from the video signal recording section for searching the recording medium for separately stored information pertaining to silver salt shooting information, and for collecting together and recording index data which forms an aggregate of the separately silver salt shooting information.

According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. Since silver salt information thus inputted during recording is recorded in the index data recording section, the silver salt information can

easily be retrieved by searching the index data recording portion. Accordingly, it is not necessary to search a film or a recording medium from end to end in order to retrieve silver salt information. Note page 6, line 22 et seq. of the present specification, and particularly the disclosure pertaining to Figure 33 on pages 49 and 50.

This aspect of the invention is encompassed by independent claim 8, as amended.

Inoue recites, in column 12, line 44 et seq., that a screen subjected to post-processing may be searched and found on the image monitor 21. The magnetic reading circuit 31 finds a frame having the same frame number as that of the screen read on the image monitor 21 while searching information on the magnetic recording layer of the film.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 8. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest at least the following features recited in claim 8:

- a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section; and
- an index data recording section provided separately from the video signal recording section for searching the recording medium for separately stored information pertaining to silver salt shooting information, and for collecting together and recording index data which forms an aggregate of the separately silver salt shooting information

Inoue apparently stores information pertaining to frame data. However, there is at least no suggestion that an index data recording section is provided separately from a video signal recording section, or that an index data recording section searches and collects together index data from a recording medium. The Examiner states that: "As for the index recording section, this limitation is writtten broadly enough to read on the aggregate of information which is stored on the film along with each photograph (see figure 4)." However, this information is created during the shooting of each still picture. Consequently, this information is not provided by searching and collecting together information from a recording medium, as now recited. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

The dependent claims, including the newly added dependent claim, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter which is not disclosed or suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

New independent claim 30 shares similar features to independent claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1.

For at least the above-stated reasons, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection based on Inoue.

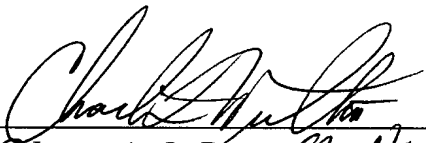
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned if any issues remain unresolved by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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